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March 12, 1981

HEALING CONFERENCE DRAWS 100 PEOPLE

WARWICK, N. Y. -- A conference on healing brought more than 100 persons here to be trained as leaders to share this often little-understood ministry.

The five-day conference in mid-February was sponsored by the lay ministry and evangelism/renewal offices of the Episcopal Church Center but was designed as an ecumenical exercise. Although more than half the participants were Episcopalians, the second largest group consisted of Roman Catholics, and United Church, Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian and Jewish followers were present.

Conference coordinator Sherrill Akyol of All Angels Church, New York, said the session was unique because of a paired emphasis on teaching and experience. "We had workshops on the various areas followed by prayer for those kinds of healing. The concept was on teams learning to pray for and with each other."

The primary teachers for the sessions were Francis and Judith McNutt, a Roman Catholic couple with an extensive healing ministry. McNutt is the author -- most recently -- of "The Prayer That Heals," an exploration of prayer in family groups published by Ave Maria Press.

Within the format, the sessions were devoted to forgiveness, psychological and physical healing and deliverance. A morning teaching session explored scriptural, technical and spiritual aspects and was followed by prayer sessions. Most of the sessions were closed -- involving only the continuing participants -- but the physical healing section evolved around prayer for release from pain for two victims of crippling chronic ailments. In the intensive prayer that followed, Akyol reported, both felt improvement.

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Daily worship was an important part of the conference and was coordinated by a Roman Catholic laywoman with music by Paul Johnson, a New York-based songwriter and entertainer who has developed an extensive ministry in liturgical music.

Akyol said that one indication of the value which the participants placed on the conference was that more than \$500 in free-will contributions were offered even though nothing had been solicited.

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PICTURE CAPTION

81089 Francis and Judith McNutt (facing camera), were the main teachers at a Healing Conference that brought 100 people together to a Reformed Church conference center in Warwick, N. Y., to be trained as leaders in healing ministries. The conference was sponsored by Episcopal Church Center offices of lay ministry and evangelism/renewal. The McNutts have an extensive healing ministry in the Roman Catholic church.

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